



4th Sunday of Advent December 22, 2024

New Hope Lutheran Church
3125 5th Ave. S., Great Falls, MT (406) 315-1203
www.newhopegf.org Rev. Tammy Bull

Our mission: to share our faith in Christ by serving all with respectful compassion.

GATHERING

Gathering Music: *A Christmas Pastorale*

arr. Van Denman Thompson

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude: *Vision*

David Paxton

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, alive in the world, reviving creation, arriving soon. **C: Amen.**

L: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
(*silence for reflection and self-examination*)

L: God of mercy,

C: we confess that we have sinned. We trust earthly powers and human authority alone. We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.

L: God of might,

C: we confess that we have sinned. We have turned away from our neighbors. We have trusted false promises.

L: God in our midst,

C: we confess that we have sinned. We plead: come to us. Bring your mercy to birth in us.

L: A righteous branch springs forth: it is Christ the Lord, our Savior, in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy. By the power of the Holy Spirit, receive the grace and forgiveness of God through (+) Christ Jesus, whose day draws near.

C: Amen.

1. Awake! Awake, and greet the new morn, for angels herald its dawning.
Sing out your joy, for soon he is born, behold! The Child of our longing.
Come as a baby, weak and poor, to bring all hearts together,
He opens wide the heav'nly door and lives now inside us forever.
2. To us, to all in sorrow and fear Emmanuel comes a-singing,
His humble song is quiet and near, yet fills the earth with its ringing,
Music to heal the broken soul and hymns of lovingkindness,
The thunder of his anthems roll to shatter all hatred and blindness.
3. In darkest night his coming shall be, when all the world is despairing,
As morning light so quiet and free, so warm and gentle and caring.
Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in wonder,
The weak be raised above the strong, and weapons be broken asunder.
4. Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night,
 though dark the winter and cheerless.
The rising sun shall crown you with light, be strong and loving and fearless.
Love be our song and love our prayer, and love our endless story;
May God fill ev'ry day we share and bring us at last into glory.

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **C: And also with you.**

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

We Are Waiting For Jesus (v. 1)

ACS #905

1. We are waiting for Jesus; Jesus brings peace.
We are waiting for Jesus; Jesus brings peace.
Sun of justice, shine upon us; we are trusting in your promise.
We are waiting for Jesus; Jesus brings peace.

L: As we light the last candle, the candle of *love*, we acknowledge that we live in a world that is broken and hurting.

C: We are waiting for the One who will turn the world around to heal and comfort all people. Come, Lord Jesus.

2. We are waiting for Jesus; Jesus brings peace.
We are waiting for Jesus; Jesus brings peace.
Loving Shepherd, walk beside us; stir our hearts, and gently guide us.
We are waiting for Jesus; Jesus brings peace.

L: We pray together the prayer of the day... **C: Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

WORD

L: The 1st Reading is from Micah 5:2-5a

L: Word of God, word of life. **C: Thanks be to God.**

L: 2nd Reading is from Hebrews 10:5-10

L: Word of God, word of life. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation: Halle, Halle, Hallelujah
Halle, Halle, Hallelujah. Halle, Halle, Hallelujah.
Halle, Halle, Hallelujah. Hallelujah. Hallelujah.

ELW #172

Gospel Reading: Luke 1:39-45

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

L: The gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Responsive Reading: Luke 1:46b-55 (*Mary's Song of Praise*)

In place of the reading, we sing the Magnificat Holden Evening Prayer p. 18

My soul proclaims your greatness, O God, and my spirit rejoices in you.

You have looked with love on your servant here,
and blessed me all my life through.

Great and mighty are you, O Holy One, strong is your kindness evermore.

How you favor the weak and lowly one, humbling the proud of heart.

You have cast the mighty down from their thrones,
and uplifted the humble of heart,

You have filled the hungry with wondrous things, and left the wealthy no part.

Great and mighty are you, O Faithful One, strong is your justice, strong your love,
As you promised to Sarah and Abraham, kindness forevermore.
My soul proclaims your greatness, O God, and my spirit rejoices in you.
You have looked with love on your servant here,
and blessed me all my life through.

Children's Time

Sermon

Rev. Tammy Bull

Hymn of the Day: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (vs. 1,2,6,7) ELW #257

1. Oh, come, oh, come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.
2. O come, O Wisdom from on high, embracing all things far and nigh:
In strength and beauty come and stay; teach us your will and guide our way.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.
6. O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer; O Sun of justice, now draw near.
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadow put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.
7. O come, O King of nations, come, O Cornerstone that binds in one:
Refresh the hearts that long for you; restore the broken, make us new.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

L: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we confess our faith using the words of the Apostles' Creed:

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Amen.

Prayers of the People (*petitions end "Lord in your mercy" ... "hear our prayer."*)

Sharing the Peace of Christ

L: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. **C: And also with you.**

The Offering: (At this time we bring our gifts and offerings to God in gratitude and joy. In response to God's love, we care for others in the name of Jesus. We do this, in part, through our visitation ministry to those who are hospitalized or home-bound. We appreciate your gifts of time, money, energy, and prayers to this work! If you are our guest today - either in person or online – we invite you to join us in caring for God's people and God's world!)

Offertory: At the Cradle César Frank/ arr. Allen James

Offering Response: Create in Me a Clean Heart ELW #186

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.

Offertory Prayer: **C: God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**
P: Lift up your hearts. **C: We lift them to the Lord.**
P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Words of Institution & Lord's Prayer

P: "In the night in which he was betrayed..." **C: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

Invitation to the Lord's Table

God feeds us with tender mercy. Come to the table.

Wait for the Lord (sing twice)

ELW #262

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near. Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart.

Hymn during Communion: O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

ELW #241

1. O Lord, how shall I meet you, how welcome you aright?
Your people long to greet you, my hope, my heart's delight!
Oh, kindle, Lord most holy, your lamp within my breast
To do in spirit lowly all that may please you best.
2. I lay in fetters groaning; you came to set me free.
I stood, my shame bemoaning; you came to honor me.
A glorious crown you give me, a treasure safe on high
That will not fail or leave me as earthly riches fly.
3. Love caused your incarnation; love brought you down to me.
Your thirst for my salvation procured my liberty.
Oh, love beyond all telling, that led you to embrace
In love, all love excelling, our lost and fallen race.
4. Rejoice, then, you sad-hearted, who sit in deepest gloom,
Who mourn your joys departed and tremble at your doom.
All hail the Lord's appearing! O glorious Sun, now come,
Send forth your beams so cheering and guide us safely home.

P: The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen us, unite us, and keep us in his grace. **C: Amen.**

L: Let us all pray... **C: Pour out upon us the spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of those whom you have fed with one heavenly food; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SENDING

L: May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Almighty God, Father, (+) Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **C: Amen.**

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king;
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and heav'n and nature sing.
2. Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
3. No more let sin and sorrow grow nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.
4. He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders, of his love.

L: Go in peace. Remember the poor.

C: Thanks be to God!

Postlude: *Canticle of Joy*

J.S. Bach/ arr. Van Denman Thompson

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Accompanist: James Rickley

Cantor: Jodie Tooley

The December Special Offering benefits Meals on Wheels.

Keeping in prayer... The Wilbur family as they grieve the death of Mari's father Don; Sumner; Carrie; Jim; Sue; Dee; Lois & Frank; Rebecca; Danny; Triston; MaryAnn; Carl & Harley; Ann; Ace; Arvin; Beth; Arnie; Peggy & Larry; Sandy; Noah; Dorothy; Toni; Scott; Haley; Esther; Reta; Elaine;

Announcements for the week of December 22:

- Tues. 12/24: Christmas Eve worship with Holy Communion and candle lighting at 5:00 pm.
- Wed. 12/25: Christmas Day. No weekly activities. Church office is closed.
- Fri./Sat. Dec. 26 & 27: Work day to begin prepping for the carpet and pew replacement. 9:00 am.
- Sun. 12/29: 1st Sunday of Christmas – Worship at 10 am.

THANK YOU... to everyone who participated in last Sunday's Christmas story presentation!

Please note: 2024 year-end gifts need to be sent to the church no later than 12/31 to be included in your giving statement. Our constitution stipulates that voting members must be on record as having communed and financially contributed to New Hope's ministry in the current/previous year.

Committee reports are due in the church office by December 30th. Thanks!